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Articles of Agreement, Thomas G. Clemson, 1868, January 1

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State of South Carolina }
Dist. of Pickens

1 Jan. 1868

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Articles of agreement between

Thos. J. Glenon of the one part, & the undersigned freed-men & women of the other part, to wit: Said Freed-men & women agree to him this time as laborers on the Fort Hill plantation from January 1st 1868 to 1st of January 1869. To conduct themselves faithfully, honestly, civilly, & diligently; to perform all labor on said plantation or such as may be connected therewith that may be required by said Thos. J. Glenon or his agent; & to keep no fire arms or deadly weapons, no ardent spirits nor introduce or invite visitors, nor leave the premises during working hours without the written consent of the proprietor or his agent.

II. The said freed men, & women agree to perform the daily tasks hitherto usually allotted on said plantation.

III. For every day's labor lost by absence, refusal or neglect to perform the daily task, or labor said servants shall forfeit fifty cents.

If absent voluntarily, or without authority, or without leave two dollars a day; if absent more than one day without leave to be subject to dismissal from the plantation & forfeiture of share in crops.

The dependants or families of such laborers or laborers shall immediately vacate their houses within the space of three days & quit the plantation. All such fines, & forfeitures shall inure to the benefit of the employer & employees in proportion to their relative shares.

IV. Said Freed-men & women agree to take good care of all utensils, tools, & implements committed to their charge, & to pay for same if injured or destroyed, also to feed, & curry, & give attention to all stock put under their charge, to be kind, & gentle to all work animals under their charge, & to pay for any injury which they may sustain while in their hands through their carelessness or neglect, & forfeitures here in specified will be subject to the decision of the authorities having jurisdiction of the same.

V. They stipulate to keep their houses, lots & persons in neat condition, subject to the inspection of their employer, or agent at any time.

I have no doubt
about it

VII. The said employer agrees to treat his employees with justice, & kindness; to furnish each family with quarters on the plantation & the privilege of getting fire wood from some portion of the premises to be indicated by the employer or his agent, & to divide the crop with them in the following manner & proportions to wit: to the employees one third of the fodder, cotton, potatoes, peas, & oats, they paying back their proportion of seed gathered & prepared for market or its market-value at the end of the year, and the said T. J. Henson agrees to furnish the usual bread rations to be accounted for at the market price out of their share of the crop.

VIII. Said proprietor - to furnish feed for the animals.

IX. All violations of the terms of this contract or the rules & regulations of the employer may be punished by fines dismissal from the plantation with forfeiture of his or her wages or share of the crop as the case may be.

X. The employer - or his agent shall keep a book in which shall be entered all advances made by him, & fines & forfeitures for lost time, or any cause, which book shall be received as evidence in same manner as merchants are now received in courts of justice, & shall have a right to deduct from the share of each laborer all his or her fines & forfeitures, also all advances made to them subject to the decisions of the authorities having jurisdiction of the same.

XI. The laborers shall not sell any agricultural production to any person whatsoever without the written consent of the employer or his agent until after the division of the crop.

XII. The laborers shall commence work at sun rise & work till dark, & be allowed one or more hours for their meals according to the season of the year.

XIII. That there may be no misunderstanding, the laborers on Fort Hill Farm agree, to properly plant all fall small grain that may be required of them, but in no manner will they have claim on said grain for said services, or pay.